

Agency 190

Board of Industrial Insurance Appeals**Recommendation Summary**

Dollars in Thousands

	Annual FTEs General Fund State	Other Funds	Total Funds
2009-11 Expenditure Authority	158.1	36,298	36,298
Total Maintenance Level	158.1	37,783	37,783
Difference		1,485	1,485
Percent Change from Current Biennium	0.0%	4.1%	4.1%
Performance Changes			
Agency Back Office Efficiencies	(3.0)	(477)	(477)
Reduce Caseload and Cost Assumptions	(3.1)	(810)	(810)
Suspend Plan 1 Uniform COLA #		(420)	(420)
State Data Center Rate Increase		68	68
Subtotal	(6.1)	(1,639)	(1,639)
Total Proposed Budget	152.0	36,144	36,144
Difference	(6.1)	(154)	(154)
Percent Change from Current Biennium	(3.9)%	(0.4)%	(0.4)%
Total Proposed Budget by Activity			
Hearings	110.8	27,270	27,270
Mediation	41.3	8,874	8,874
Total Proposed Budget	152.0	36,144	36,144

PERFORMANCE LEVEL CHANGE DESCRIPTIONS**Agency Back Office Efficiencies**

The Board of Industrial Insurance Appeals will place greater focus on its primary mission. As a result, ongoing expenses related to three administrative and financial positions are eliminated. (Accident Account-State, Medical Aid Account-State)

Reduce Caseload and Cost Assumptions

The Board of Industrial Insurance Appeals tracks the number of appeals it hears and the cost per appeal. Based on recent experience, ongoing expenditure authority is reduced to better match current workload. (Accident Account-State, Medical Aid Account-State)

ACTIVITY DESCRIPTIONS

HUMAN SERVICES - OTHER

ACTIVITY DESCRIPTIONS

Hearings

The Hearings Section schedules and conducts formal hearings on all contested issues raised in an appeal. Hearings are formal legal proceedings following the civil rules applicable in the Superior Courts of Washington. At the conclusion of the hearings and the closing of the record, a judge will issue a written proposed decision and order containing findings of fact and conclusions of law on all contested issues. If a party disagrees with the proposed decision issued by a hearing judge, the party can petition the three-member board to review the decision. In the review program, judges assist board members in determining the appropriate action to take on petitions. Judges review the petition and the entire record of proceeding, then make recommendations to the board. If the board votes to review a proposed decision, the review judge will draft the final decision and order for the board members' approval.

Mediation

The Mediation Program focuses on assisting parties in understanding the appeal process and reaching an agreed resolution, if possible. Unrepresented appellants are given an opportunity to discuss the issues involved in their appeal in an informal setting with a judge and a representative from the other party. Judges are trained mediators who have extensive knowledge of workers' compensation and other areas of the law, as well as in the practices and procedures of the Board. These skills and specialized knowledge are used to assist the parties in exploring options for resolution of the appeal.